



THE FARM AS SERF OR ALLY

(Written Specially for The Bulletin.)

There are two ways of treating the farm. One may attack it as if it were an enemy to be killed; or he may work with it as if it were an ally.

You may treat it as the German traitor, Belgium, and it will be a bully and it will knock the stuffing out of it to make it do what you want; or you may treat it as an Englishman and France treat each other, as a co-worker to be considered and helped, rather than abused and pillaged.

Even as a boy I used to notice the difference in which my father and my uncle approached the stock of the wood they were splitting up for the stove. Father would yank a big chunk out of the sawed pile, decide off-hand about how he wanted to split it, and then go to it with all his might to make it split his way. He wanted to "split" it, very well; he'd whack away at one side, perhaps a dozen times, till at last he'd worn off the slab he set after. Then he'd puff and take a fresh hold of the axe and go after another slab. He'd always get the chunk into stove-wood, sooner or later, but it frequently was "later" rather than sooner, and he used to wear out axe-helves, temper and mittens rather prodigally. Uncle, on the other hand, would pick up his chunk, look it over to see what it wanted to do to split, and then crack it open that way. Same with the halves. He'd notice their grain and take advantage of it.

As a boy I used to think he was lazier than father, because he didn't pound the chunks so vigorously and so hastily. But, as I have recalled the scene, since, I seem to remember that he used to get out every whit as big a pile of split sticks as the governor. But, as I have recalled the scene, since, I seem to remember that he used to get out every whit as big a pile of split sticks as the governor. But, as I have recalled the scene, since, I seem to remember that he used to get out every whit as big a pile of split sticks as the governor.

I've seen farmers who go to their farms just as a father and to a knotty chunk of log. They make up their minds what they want to do, what crops they want to raise, how they want to raise them, and then they, figuratively speaking, take the poor old farm by the nape of the neck and the seat of its trousers and fling it into their scheme. "That's the way they seem to say, as they bat it over one ear; "and that," as they blurt it across the other, "is the way to do it." They never ask or try to find out what the farm would like to do, or what it is fitted to do, or what it will do best. They simply know what they want to do, and demand that the farm shall meet them half-way, when, perhaps, it is in the richest corner of natural limitations and conditions that it can't even wiggle their way.

It used to be said that you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Doubtless, with sufficient pains and puttering, one might make some sort of purse out of a sow's ear, but the appendage, whether it would be a very good purse is another question. That it wouldn't be a silk purse admits of no question. But, as I have recalled the scene, since, I seem to remember that he used to get out every whit as big a pile of split sticks as the governor.

Or the exact reverse may be the case. The farm may be just eager to grow potatoes, and yet be as unfit for dairying as a farm can be. In that case it will doubtless produce some milk, if you go at it with tooth and nail, hammer and tongs, but everything will come hard and slow and the margin of profit will be apt to be very narrow.

Farming is a business, they tell us. Then why not take it up with business spirit, and in a business way?

If some big cotton mill should fall and its acres of intricate machinery should come out to the auction market, do you suppose any fertilizer manufacturer would buy it and try to make fertilizer with it? He would be all right for spinning cotton yarn or weaving muslins but it isn't fitted for grinding nitrate of soda and dried bones.

Of course every farm is just soil, dirt, sand, gravel, loam, mud, and what-not. "And isn't dirt dirt?" you ask. "Isn't sand sand?"

Surely. But you know just as well as anyone that there's a difference in dirt. Up among the marble and limestone hills of Vermont I've seen farms which hadn't an acre of level land in one place on them, but which supported more cows and sheep than any similar area in the richest corner of the famous western "corn belt" could have done. Hills which in many places would have turned brown and dusty in any ordinary summer, there remained green even through prolonged drouths. Years ago I knew of one such farm whose owner made a comfortable living solely by renting his pastures. He never thought of cultivating any land beyond what was

needed to supply his own wants. Indeed, his farm was so hilly that cultivation would have been hardly possible to any extent. Yet those ridges and hillocks simply roiled in a turf of short, sweet, pasture grasses, year after year. They seemed to have been made to grow that sort of stuff. And they certainly did grow it. I have seen other farms which simply hung round and thirsted for the chance to produce potatoes. Perhaps they might have supported cows, after a fashion, but they cheerfully rolled out ten dollars' worth of potatoes, any year, in return for loss work than would have been required to net one dollar from any dairy.

One doesn't need to cross state boundaries to see differences in farm lands. One doesn't even need to cross town lines, or go off his own farm. Dirt is dirt, undeniably, but there are a great many kinds of dirt, and each one is apt to have its own crop-producing capacity.

A very fine entertainment was given in the parish house in Ashaway last week Tuesday evening by the school children under the direction of Miss Barbara Marr, art teacher of the training school. The Riggs Family was presented in a very creditable manner to a full house.

Leon Ashfield shot a fox Sunday morning in the parish of Nathan G. Wilbur of Wilbur Heights.

The young ladies of the Seventh-Day Baptist church gave an excellent supper and entertainment in the parish house, Ashaway, Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Walter C. Brown returned to her home in Warrenton, Ore., Wednesday afternoon from a visit with the family of Rev. E. P. Mathewson, in Maple Court, Ashaway.

Several young people from Ashaway attended the supper and entertainment at the Free Baptist church in Carolina Saturday evening.

That E. P. Mathewson was the leader of the prayer meeting in Potter Hill chapel Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Benjamin Eray spent a couple of days this week with her son, C. C. Kenyon, and his family.

Mrs. Annie Cosgrove and a friend from Providence, R. I., visited with Mrs. Mary MacConnor, Monday.

Mrs. Mary W. Peckham of Providence spent a few days last week with relatives here.

Mrs. Anna Wells, who has been spending the winter with her son, at Shannock, has returned home.

Miss Arville Larkin, who has spent the winter in Westerly, has returned to her home.

J. C. Webster spent Wednesday in Providence.

Mrs. J. S. Lamond was a caller at Mrs. R. H. Bristow's at West Kingston, Sunday.

Miss Bennett of Providence spent a few days last week at J. C. Webster's.

D. E. Knight and Archie Kenyon were callers at Wakefield Sunday afternoon.

H. T. Kenyon and Miss Julia Holland of Wakefield called on relatives here Sunday.

Richmond grange met in their hall Thursday evening, with a good attendance.

Richard Thorpe of Westerly was a business caller in the village Wednesday.

Mrs. E. E. Kenyon spent Tuesday with relatives in Westerly.

Mrs. Fannie Bicknell spent Wednesday with Mrs. M. Randall at West Kingston.

Mrs. C. A. Woodmansee and Miss Clara Webster of West Kingston were callers here Monday.

RICHMOND
Barn at Hoxie Place, With Young Horse, Burned.

Mrs. Diadamy Sherman of Exeter is critically ill.

Mrs. Leonard Joslin is still confined to her home as a result of a fall.

Mrs. Silas Woodmansee and daughters, who were badly poisoned, are much better.

Robert Sherman of Newport is visiting relatives and friends in this vicinity.

Leander Johnson is spending several months with his mother, Mrs. Joseph Gardner of Exeter.

A barn owned by Mrs. Henry Hoxie of Noose Neck Hill burned to the ground Friday night, and a young horse was burned.

Robert Weeks is working for Ernest Gardner near Westerly.

Everett R. Moore made a trip to Leonard Joslin's Tuesday.

The pupils of Bell school are enjoying a vacation of three weeks.

Tolland County STAFFORDVILLE

Charles Schroder, who has been running the team for George Meyer for several months, has resigned. Fred M. Kober of Hartford succeeds him. Rev. E. H. Tunnicliffe, pastor of the M. E. church, will preach next Sunday on A Compound Interest Investment.

The Ladies' Aid society served a clam chowder supper in the vestry Thursday evening.

The sewing circle of the M. E. church met at the home of Mrs. T. M. Lyon Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. and Mrs. George Drummond moved from Stafford Hollow into one of Mrs. H. G. Dunham's tenements, last week.

Mrs. H. M. Vail, who has been visiting her sister in Northampton, Mass., returned home last week.

Miss Pearl Bowden of Monson, Mass., was home with her mother over Sunday.

Washington County, R. I. HOPKINTON

Singing Class Meets—Good Entertainment by School Pupils.

The gathering for practice in singing was held Sunday at the home of Miss John E. Connor.

Rev. E. P. Mathewson preached in the Second Seventh-Day Baptist pulpit Saturday morning, in the absence of the pastor, W. C. Barber.

Frank W. Mills was home from East Greenwich over Sunday, returning on Monday afternoon.

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Robert E. Moore and son, Ralph, are working in Slocum for a few days.

Mrs. George James of Hillsdale is very ill.

Mrs. and Mrs. Silas Woodmansee and family called on Robert E. Moore on Sunday, also Joseph Dunn, Mrs. Edw. Smith and daughter, Catherine.

Amy Elizabeth Moore had a bad fall Sunday, hitting her head against a door.

Charles Fuller of Wyoming was through Beaver River valley Monday.

Today, 2.15, 6.45, 8.45

3 COMPLETE SHOWS

VAUDEVILLE AND PHOTO-PLAYS

HARRY WYATT AND CO.,

In the Comedy Sketch, "NERVE"

ANTHONY AND ADELE

Whistling and Musical Novelty

BILLY MORSE, Blackface Comedian

Paramount Feature Photo-Play

DAVID HIGGINS

In the Four-reel Racing Play,

"HIS LAST DOLLAR"

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

In the Roaring Funny Keystone,

"THE MASQUERADER"

Next Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,

JOHN BARRYMORE in

"THE MAN FROM MEXICO," 5 Reels

3—Big Time Acts—3

Ethan Pendleton.

H. N. Robinson of Hartford was in this vicinity Thursday in the interest of his property here.

ROCKVILLE

Rev. W. G. Thomas of Hope Valley preached in the S. D. B. church here last Saturday.

Mrs. Addison McLearn was the guest of local relatives last week.

Mrs. Emory C. Kenyon, in company with her father, F. E. Barber, is visiting relatives in Connecticut.

Erlo G. Barber, who has been confined to his home the past two weeks with a sprained ankle, is so much improved as to be able to ride out Tuesday and visit his sister, Mrs. Charles Stone.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Orndorff of Providence were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Greene Sunday.

NEW LONDON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Plans for Equipping All Eight Companies With Motor Apparatus—Legislative Committee Inspects Mystic River Bridge—Invitation for Visit to Thames River Bridge Extended.

If present plans prevail, and they probably will, the eight companies comprising the New London fire department will be fully equipped with motor-driven apparatus within the next two years. Already five of the companies have been equipped.

Plans have been made for a city service truck for the F. L. Allen Hook and Ladder company and which, by the way, is to be of the very highest standard. There was lively competition for furnishing this particular machine, and despite determined opposition, the fire committee that time award the contract for the apparatus that has stood the test of continued service in other cities as well as in New London.

The committee wisely decided that it was not for the best interests of the city to indulge in any expensive experiments. With this machine delivery, the only companies without motor-driven apparatus will be the Nameaugus and Konomoc. It is in the cards to get an appropriation for the Konomoc and another appropriation for Nameaugus a year later.

Some difference from the old days when it was the custom to run wild merchandise in New London, and not so many old days at that. It was a common sight to see a horse-drawn wagon loaded with barrels of various kinds of goods, and a gang of boys running through the streets, hawking the goods by a long pole, or hitched on behind a hack or some delivery wagon pressed into service for the occasion. There are no more of these sights to be seen.

These red-shirted firemen who actually believe that the department was even more efficient in those days than at the present time. It is as interesting to hear them tell of the great achievements they attained as volunteer firemen, almost as much as to listen to the war veterans who put down the rebellion with the assistance of a few other men of their type. Wonderful days, those old days!

The legislative committee on roads, rivers and bridges were in New London Tuesday, en route to Mystic where they inspected the Mystic river bridge in connection with the taking over of the structure by the state and making the bridge a part of the state highway system.

The matter has been given public hearing and the committee made the visit in order that they might get more intelligent information prior to making a report on the proposition. This bridge connects the towns of Groton and Stonington and it is maintained jointly by them and the Groton and Stonington Street Railway company, which paid one-half the cost, the balance being divided between the towns.

It was divulged at the hearing that the trolley company had agreed to fund the bridge by the state and closing the drawbridge provided the towns of Groton and Stonington would provide the motor. The trolley company hearing was to the effect that in justice to the towns the state should take over the bridge just as had been done in many sections of the state. It was urged that the bridge was in good condition and the state would not be put at any great expense in taking over the structure and its maintenance ought to become a part of the regular highway system. However, the main feature of the hearing was in effect that there were long and tedious delays to trolley cars and automobiles as well as to other vehicles by the slow process of opening and closing the bridge. Just how these delays were to be obviated in the event of this bridge being transferred to the state was not divulged.

It would have been a case of killing a couple of birds with the same stone if this same committee had been invited to take a peep at the condition of the Thames river bridge which is destined to become state property some time, and some feature of which is likely to be the same as that of the present session of the general assembly. It is probable that the committee will be invited to make a special trip to the Thames river bridge.

Already the New London members of the legislature have had preliminary invitations from the New London Chamber of Commerce to visit New London for the purpose of making investigation as to the approaches and the like as proposed in connection with making the big railroad bridge a part of the highway system of the state, and also to examine into other matters of New London interest pending before the present session of the general assembly.

Senator Whiton stated that the invitation could be considered as extended and the date left with the New

THE DAVIS THEATRE BROADWAY

ONE NIGHT ONLY
Friday, March 19th

"GLAD TO SEE YOUR BACK AGAIN"
H. H. FRAZER'S ORIGINAL LONDON CAST AND PRODUCTION
"A PAIR OF SIXES"
BY EDWARD PEPPE, AUTHOR OF "THE PRINCE CHAP" "THE LITTLEST REBEL"
ASK ANYBODY? THE ONE COMEDY SUCCESS OF THE CENTURY

PRICES: \$150, \$100, 75c, 50c, 35c and 25c

SEAT SALE WEDNESDAY, AT 10 A. M. MAIL ORDERS FILLED IN THE ORDER OF RECEIPT

Coming!—THE BOSTON ENGLISH OPERA CO.—"50 People" IN VERDI'S BEAUTIFUL OPERA, "IL TROVATORE," TUESDAY, MARCH 23rd

Prices \$1.50, \$1.00, 75c, 50c, 35c, 25c

All Next Week AUDITORIUM

Shows, 2.30—7.9
Mat., 10c—Eve., 10c and 20c

THE MARCUS MUSICAL ATTRACTIONS, INC., Present
"The Honeymooners"

A COMPANY OF 15 PEOPLE OF UNEXCELLED ABILITY IN A SELECTED LIST OF HIGH-CLASS MUSICAL FARCE COMEDIES

ELECTRICAL EFFECTS A REAL BEAUTY CHORUS SCENIC EFFECTS
A COMPLETE CHANGE OF BILL ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY—A FULL HOUR SHOW

The Mystery Woman CLEO MADISON—THE "TREY O'HEARTS"—GIRL WILDLY EXCITING—TWO REELER WITH

TODAY—3 FINE VAUDEVILLE ACTS AND EXCELLENT PICTURES

Colonial Theatre

FRANCIS X. BUSHMANN, Appearing in
Two Reels—"ANY WOMAN'S CHOICE," Society Drama—Two Reels
"Moonshine Maid and the Man," Vitaphone, "Girl at the Key," Edison
The Smoking Out of Betty Butts, with Flora Finch
Monday—"The Girl I Left Behind Me," Six Reels, Special

W. Hamilton, D. D., of Boston, will preach at the morning service, Union service at Broadway church in the evening.

The Loyal Temperance association, Levi S. Saunders president, will hold religious services at their rooms, 35 Shetucket street, Bill block, Sunday afternoon.

At Grace Episcopal church, Yantic, morning prayer and special sermon for children; evening prayer and sermon. The pastor, Rev. M. McLean Goldie, will be in charge.

At Grace Memorial Baptist church, preaching morning and evening by the pastor, Rev. J. H. Bennis, morning service at 10 a. m., evening service at 7 p. m. The pastor, Rev. J. H. Bennis, preaches at both services.

At the Central Baptist church, the pastor, Rev. Dr. Joel B. Stocum, will preach in the morning. Bible school and the City Bible class for men at 7 a. m. Special address, and Swallow orchestra at the class. No evening service on account of union meeting at Broadway Congregational church.

At Mt. Calvary Baptist church, preaching by Rev. J. H. Bennis, morning subject The New Birth; evening subject, The Fundamental Principles of Christianity. Denominational day will be observed. Bible class after morning service. Bible and literary programs in the afternoon conducted by Miss Pauline Geer.

At the Second Congregational church, morning worship with sermon and hymn for the children, Sunday school at noon, evening service omitted on account of union meeting at Broadway church.

At the Church of the Good Shepherd, Universalist, Rev. Joseph F. Cobb will preach.

At the Broadway Congregational church, the pastor will preach in the morning. Instead of the afternoon service there will be a union service at 7:30 at which Rev. Joel B. Stocum will preach.

McKinley avenue A. M. E. Zion church, Rev. E. George Biddle, the pastor, will preach at both morning and evening services. Sunday school after morning service. Prayer service at 7 p. m.

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